



**May 13, 2005**

**Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton, former Chair and Vice Chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9-11 Commission) today released the following statement:**

We applaud yesterday's vote in the House of Representatives to approve H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005.

In our report, we wrote that homeland security assistance should be based strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities. H.R. 1544 represents a significant step forward for national preparedness, in line with our recommendation on risk-based funding.

We thank Chairman Cox and Ranking Member Thompson of the Homeland Security Committee for their bipartisan leadership and clear view of the national interest on this issue. Their excellent work on H.R. 1544 validates our recommendation for a permanent standing Committee on Homeland Security.

We remain committed to carrying out the reforms recommended by the 9/11 Commission, to make our country safer and more secure.

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